

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, FI, OVIP
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MAUNO KOIVISTO

REF: HELSINKI 0419,

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT MAUNO KOIVISTO, GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF FINLAND AND A FIGURE OF GROWING INTEREST AS A POSSIBLE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO KEKKONEN, BE

CEIVED BY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS DURING A STOP IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 26 THAT HE IS PROPOSING. END SUMMARY.

2. KOIVISTO WOULD LIKE TO STOP OVER IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 26 ON HIS WAY TO THE IMF INTERIM MEETING IN MEXICO CITY ON APRIL 29 AND 30. KARI NARS, THE BANK'S DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY KOIVISTO TO MEXICO CITY, INDICATED KOIVISTO WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL OR UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON, AND ON FRB CHAIRMAN MILLER. KOIVISTO WOULD ALSO WELCOME MEETINGS AT STATE.

3. WHILE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PROBLEMS AND COORDINATION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC POLICIES SHOULD PROVIDE
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GRIST FOR USEFUL DISCUSSIONS, ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE THE IMF INTERIM MEETING, IT IS LARGELY BECAUSE OF KOIVISTO'S ENHANCED STANDING IN DOMESTIC FINNISH POLITICS THAT THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT HE BE RECEIVED AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE US GOVERNMENT. KOIVISTO'S REMARKABLE SHOWING AS THE LEADING VOTEGETTER

IN THE JANUARY ELECTION OF FINLAND'S EQUIVALENT OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL COLLEGE (REFTEL, PARAS 9 AND 10), PLACES HIM AMONG THE SMALL GROUP OF POSSIBLE EVENTUAL SUCCESSORS TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. (THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO FACILITATE BRIEF VISITS TO THE US BY THOSE FEW FIGURES IN FINNISH POLITICS WHO HAVE A REAL POSSIBILITY OF ATTAINING THE PRESIDENCY, TO ACQUAINT THEM BETTER WITH THE US AND ESPECIALLY WITH SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. TO HELP AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT WE FAVOR PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS OF A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, SUCH VISITS SHOULD BE GIVEN A FOCUS APPROPRIATE TO THE VISITOR'S CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES.)

4. IN ADDITION TO APPOINTMENTS MENTION BY NARS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ARRANGING AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH A PROMINENT CONGRESSIONAL FIGURE--SUCH AS CONGRESSMAN REUSS OR CONGRESSMAN FRASER--WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AREAS OF CENTRAL BANKING FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISER. WITH ONLY THE ONE DAY OF APRIL 26 AVAILABLE, A SMALL, INFORMAL LUNCHEON GIVEN BY UNDER SECRETARY COOPER OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST COULD BE VERY SUITABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

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